

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). In combination, a shuttered connector and a mating connector connected to each other in a predetermined direction, said mating connector including an insertion part having a slanted surface slanted relative to said predetermined direction, the shuttered connector comprising:

a fitting part that receives the mating connector;

an insulator;

a shutter rotatably supported by a pair of shafts provided at both sides of ~~by~~ the insulator between a closed position at which the shutter covers the fitting part and an opened position at which the mating connector is capable of being fitted with the shuttered connector; and

elastic members that continuously urge said shutter in a closing direction, said shutter including a guide unit having an inclined surface inclined relative to said predetermined direction, said shutter being rotated to open outwards, with said inclined surface being brought into contact with said slanted surface so as to be pushed by said slanted surface when said fitting part receives said mating connector, so that said shuttered connector is capable of fitting said mating connector.

2 (previously presented). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the shutter comprises one shutter plate that opens in a direction orthogonal to a fitting direction of the mating connector.

3 (currently amended). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein said shutter has a two-plates structure having two shutter plates, the shutter plates having two common shafts consisting of the pair of shafts at the both sides of the shutter plates, respectively, and moving upward and downward around said two common shafts, respectively to open and butting the ends of the shutter plates together to close.

4 (currently amended). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the mating connector has an insertion part and the insertion part has two portions protruding from front ends of both sides of the mating connector.

5 (previously presented). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein said shutter further includes arms at both sides of said shutter, the arms reaching the insulator, one end of each of the arms being rotatably supported by the insulator.

6 (canceled).

7 (currently amended). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the fitting part of the shuttered connector is part of shells arranged at least at upper and lower surfaces of the insulator so as to cover ends of the insulator, the mating connector being sandwiched between the shells in ~~the~~ a vertical direction.

8 (previously presented). The combination according to Claim 7, wherein the shells are joined to a substrate.

9 (currently amended). The combination according to Claim 1, further comprising socket contacts located in positions corresponding to mating contacts for making contact with the mating connector, wherein the mating connector further comprises ~~plural~~ a plurality of mating contacts located in positions different from the insertion part and aligned in a width direction.

10 (previously presented). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the mating connector is mounted on a substrate.

11 (previously presented). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the elastic members are made of springs.

12 (new). The combination according to Claim 1, wherein the inclined surface is flat.